

AgriBiz!

SC Agricultural Education Magazine

Volume XIII Issue 3 2012

Aiken FFA Recognized at National



Nat'l Convention
State Fair Awards
CAFLS Tailgate
and Much More

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In This Issue...

Aiken FFA Recognized at National	1
20th CAFLS Alumni Tailgate	2
State Fair Awards & Scholarships	3
National Convention Highlights	6-7
Emerging Technologies in Agriculture	9
Chapter Happenings	10

Winter/Spring Calendar

January 25-26	SC Young Farmer & Agribusiness Association State Convention
February 9	Wildlife CDE
February 11	Pee Dee POW
	Pee Dee Tool ID CDE
	Lower State Tool ID
February 12	Lower State POW
February 19 - 22	National FFA Week
February 20	Legislator Appreciation Day
February 25	Piedmont POW
	Piedmont Tool ID
February 26	Mid-State POW
	Mid-State Tool ID
March 1	Dairy Judging CDE
	Dairy Handlers CDE
March 2	Milk Products & Quality CDE
March 12	Mid-State Leadership CDE
March 23	Floriculture CDE
	Nursery Landscape CDE
March 30	Agromony CDE
	State Tool ID CDE
	Turf CDE
April 6	Livestock CDE
April 13	Poultry CDE
	Agriculture Mechanics CDE
April 15	Region Teachers Meeting - Lower State
April 16	Region Teachers Meeting - Mid-State, Pee Dee, and Piedmont
April 17	SCAAE State House Plant Presentation

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On the Cover: Aiken FFA members Scott Morgan and Brodie Cox are presented a plaque on stage at the National FFA Convention by National FFA Advisor Steve Brown — photo provided by the National FFA



Aiken FFA Recognized as Model of Excellence and Model of Innovation Award

Article by Keith Cox, Executive Director of SC FFA

The Aiken FFA chapter returned home with some new hardware and plenty to smile about when the 85th National FFA Convention & Expo wrapped up.

They were named as a finalist in the 2012 Model of Excellence chapter by the National FFA Organization, which places them as one of the top ten chapters in the nation. Model of Excellence is new category in the FFA National Chapter Award program designed to recognize the top FFA chapter nationwide.

Aiken was also named as a finalist in the 2012 Model of Innovation – Student Development award by the National FFA Organization. Student Development serves as one of three FFA Model of Innovation award areas geared to encourage a complete development of an FFA chapter. This placed them in a select group of just five chapters nationwide to receive this honor.

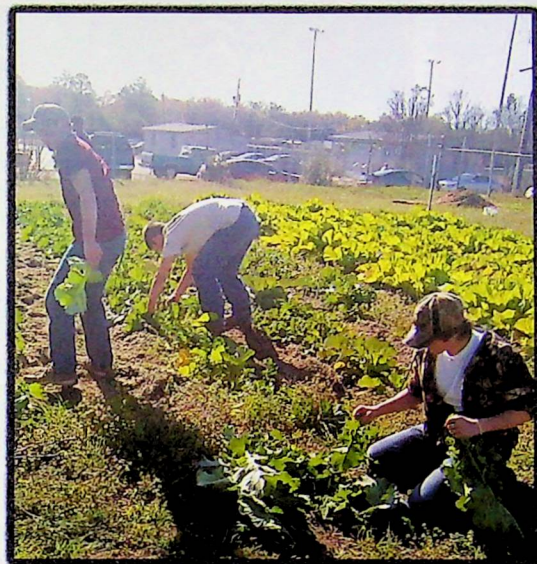
Aiken FFA, along with the other national finalists in the Model of Excellence and Model of Innovation, presented their chapter's Program of Activities (POA) to a panel of judges during the convention and accepted their award during the convention's second general session at Bankers Life Fieldhouse.

The Aiken FFA Chapter became eligible for the awards after earning a Gold rating at the state level. Their application was then forwarded to the National FFA for further judging. At that point the Aiken FFA received a Three-Star rating during national chapter judging completed by FFA during the summer. There, judges evaluate a chapter's Program of Activities (POA) that contains activities specified by three standing chapter committees, which are to be accomplished during the course of a school year. Each of the 7,498 FFA chapters nationally are required to develop a POA specific to their needs and goals.

One of the most unique activities that brought so much recognition to the chapter was their Aiken High Evening of the Art's. The purpose of this activity was to highlight the chapter's members' talent and work through floral arrangement demonstrations, horticultural plants grown in the greenhouse, as well as performing arts such as singers, dancers, guitarist, soloists, ballet dancers and cloggers. The event allowed students to showcase their talents in ways that otherwise may not have been possible. They were provided a way for the students to grow personally. Several students were amazed that they had a chance to perform in front of a large audience. The chapter received great reviews from the members, parents and community members and will make this an annual event.

Other activities included making Christmas Wreaths for community members, plant sales, FFA Week activities, school garden and Trick-or-Treat for Charity. This activity had its members collecting can goods for needed families in the area on Halloween. They didn't stop there as they visited a nursing home and made Thanksgiving Pumpkin centerpieces for the resident's rooms. Besides all of the fun and much needed community events the Aiken FFA competed in 11 different CDE events that involved 75% of their members.

Overall, the chapter designed over 15 activities during the school year related to quality standards set by the National FFA Organization. Meghan Wood is the FFA chapter advisor at Aiken High School.



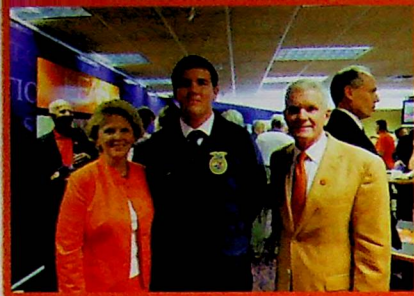
CAFLS Alumni Tailgate

Article by Keith Cox, Executive Director, SC FFA

Over 525 FFA members and advisors attended the 20th Annual CAFLS Alumni Tailgate on Saturday, October 6th before the Clemson - Georgia Tech football game. This year's event was one of the largest ever with over 2000 alumni, friends, students, staff and faculty attending. Thirty-four different organizations and departments were represented at displays and interactive booths both in and outside of Fike Field House. In addition, a silent auction was conducted and a 1.5 Million Dollar gift from the Goz and Pat Segars family of Darlington County was announced during the event. This year's event reached a new level of excitement thanks to the SC Farm Bureau signing on as the events naming sponsor. Other sponsors included: AgSouth Farm Credit, ArborOne Farm Credit, McLeods Farms of McBee, South Carolina Soybean Board, Southern States Cooperative and Utz Quality Foods, Inc.

This multidimensional event continues to be the largest annual, non-athletic gathering of Clemson alumni on the main campus and the SC FFA is honored to be a part of the wonderful event each year.

State FFA President Trent Ruston had the honor of visiting the Presidents Box before the game where he was greeted by Dr. and Mrs. James Barker, President of Clemson University. After visiting with the Barkers Trent spoke with Dr. Tom Scott, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences, and other faculty members that were gathered.



President and Mrs. Barker with
Trent Ruston, State FFA President



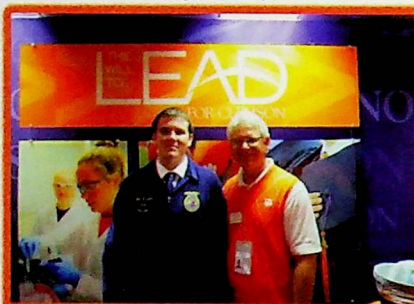
FFA members enjoying lunch



State Officers helping out with
the give aways



Some of the outdoor activities at the Tailgate



State FFA President, Trent Ruston
with Dean Scott.



FFA Members enjoying the Clemson game



South Carolina FFA Day at the State Fair

Article by Keith Cox, Executive Director of SC FFA

On October 16th hundreds of FFA members, Agricultural Teachers and guests gathered at the Nutt Livestock Arena to be welcome by Gary Goodman, General Manager, to the 2012 State Fair.

After the ceremony the members had a chance to participate in or watch the State Tractor Operation and Safety Career Development Event, study the livestock, tour the many displays throughout the fair buildings and of course enjoy the rides and food that the State Fair offers.

The State Fair has a long-standing tradition of successfully promoting the FFA. The State Fair hosted the organizational meeting of the Future Palmetto Farmers at the 1927 fair. This was a forerunner of the South Carolina Association of Future Farmers of America. Known today as the South Carolina FFA Association.

We would like to give the Aiken FFA a special thank you for providing mums and pumpkins that decorated the Nutt Livestock Arena.



Gary Goodman
welcomes the FFA
Members

Some of the hundreds
of FFA members



FFA Members Win 2012 SC Association of Fairs Scholarship

Article by Keith Cox, Executive Director of SC FFA

SC Association of Fairs presented four Agricultural Education students a \$500 scholarship for their excellence in Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE), FFA Leadership, School and Community Activities and Scholastic Ability.

The students were presented with the award on Oct. 16 by Nancy Smith, President Elect of the SCAF, at the 2012 South Carolina FFA Day at the State Fair in Columbia before a statewide audience of FFA members, agricultural educators, and agricultural industry leaders.

Dr. Thomas Dobbins, Agriculture Division Chair of Clemson University's School of Agricultural, Forest, and Environmental Sciences (SAFES), told the assembled crowd, "Thanks to young people like you, the future of agriculture in South Carolina and across the U.S. is strong. FFA participants will help solve the world's big problems like increasing global food supply to feed our ever-increasing population."



Neal Stevens, a senior at Belton Honea Path High School, is supervised by agricultural education teacher Glenn Stevens. Stevens hopes to attend Clemson University and pursue a career in forestry or agriculture.



Anna Mink, a senior at Aiken High School, is supervised by agricultural education teacher Meghan Wood. Mink hopes to attend Clemson University and pursue a career in agricultural education.



Trent Miller, a senior at Strom Thurmond High School, is supervised by agricultural education teachers Darla Steele and Jeremy Brooks.



Joshua Collins, a senior at Green Sea - Floyds High School, is supervised by agricultural education teacher Lee Mayfield. Collins hopes to attend Clemson University where he will study business management.



Safely Driving Into History

Article by Regina Fitzpatrick, Program Assistant for the SC FFA

On your mark, get set, go make history! That's exactly what this year's State Tractor Operations and Safety Career Development Event did this year and marked a first in the CDE's long standing SC FFA History. The purpose of the event is for students to develop the ability to demonstrate their skill in driving a tractor with trailer attached. Safety will be stressed throughout the contest. The event was open to all students who are active FFA members and who are enrolled in an Agricultural Education course (9 through 12 grades). Teams consisted of 3 or 4 participants and 42 teams joined in participating at the event held in conjunction with the FFA Day at the South Carolina State Fair.

Teams were on the mark when it came to showcasing their operation skills and safety practices. The public joined in to watch and cheer on teams. The event began at 10 am and lasted until dusk. Students were excited not only to participate, but to be able to show the average fair goer what FFA and agriculture is about--learning life skills.

At the conclusion of the contest, the Andrew Jackson FFA took top honors, while Pickens County Career Center placed second, with Chester County Career Center rounding out the top 3. Top individuals included: First Place Individual Dakota Crosby from the Colleton County FFA; Second Place Individual was Grayson Joye from the Wagener-Salley FFA; and Third Place was Matthew Christian from the Hillcrest FFA. A special thank you to all those who came out and supported the event, especially the South Carolina State Fair, Ms. Nancy Smith, and the South Carolina Young Farmers & Agribusiness Association.



2012 SC FFA State Tractor Driving CDE Champions from the Andrew Jackson Chapter: Thomas Bailey, Manning Taylor, Daniel Faulkenberry, Brandon Mungo, and Advisor Ashli Young.

Dobbins Named Division Chair

Contributed by Clemson University College of
Agriculture Forestry and Life Science



Dr. Thomas Dobbins has been named Agriculture Division chair in Clemson University's School of Agricultural, Forest, and Environmental Sciences (SAFES).

Dobbins has been at Clemson for 26 years. He has served as agricultural education program director and has been professor of agricultural and bio systems engineering since 1999 and he is editor of the *Journal of Career and Technical Education*. His research interests include pre-service and in-service teacher/extension education preparation and the integration of math and science into the secondary agriculture curriculum. Dobbins has also worked as dairy extension associate in Clemson's department of animal and veterinary sciences and dairy extension agent for the South Carolina Piedmont District. He won the 2005 Cooperative Extension Superior Service Award. Dobbins is a past President of the South Carolina FFA Association.

FFA Members Take Top Honors

Contributed by Tim Keown, Advisor Crescent FFA Chapter

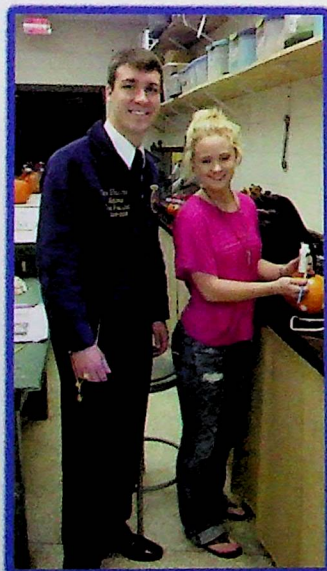
Two Crescent FFA members win the coveted Farm Bureau Scholarships at the state fair this year! Melissa Russo of Starr, SC placed second and Carly Watt of Iva, SC placed first overall and each won a \$2500 scholarship based on their knowledge of the beef industry and their showmanship skills. This is the 6th year in a row a Crescent FFA member has won this scholarship at the state fair.



National Officer Conducts Chapter Opportunity Workshops

Article by Regina Fitzpatrick, Program Assistant for the SC FFA

Where can you find the opportunity of a lifetime?? This year it was at the Chapter Opportunity Workshops held throughout South Carolina. Over 600 members and advisors got the chance to visit with a National FFA Officer, State Officers, and learn more about leadership. For each of the workshops, students were able to hone in on their leadership abilities and learn how to be active in the FFA. State officers presented workshops for chapter officers and leaders, while Cain Thurmond (National FFA Vice President) offered a workshop for Greenhand members. A special thank you to the Golden Strip, Pelion, McBee, and Aiken Chapters for hosting the event. If you missed out on this opportunity, don't worry, next year hopes to be bigger and better!



ArborOne Holds Second Annual Aim-at-Ag Fundraiser for the SC FFA & SC 4H

Article by Keith Cox, Executive Director of SC FFA

Black River Sporting Clays in Kingstree was the location of the Aim-at-Ag fundraiser conducted by ArborOne Farm Credit of Florence.

The Aim-At-Ag Tournament had more than 120 competitors on November 3rd. Participants had the opportunity to test their shooting skills on the challenging 12 station course, win door prizes, and purchase raffle tickets throughout the day. The event concluded with lunch and an awards ceremony. It was a family event to help promote gun safety and usage, outdoor appreciation and fellowship.

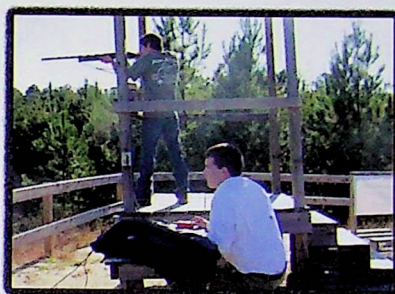
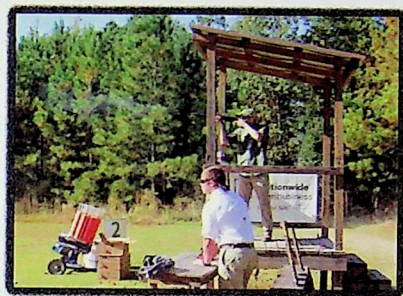
The tournament was a huge success last year with the proceeds being split between the South Carolina 4-H and South Carolina FFA Association. Each group received \$9,500 last year and they should beat that amount this year.

Special thanks to the East Clarendon, Manning, Darlington IT and Barnwell CCC for participating and helping with the event. The South Carolina FFA State Officer team also participated in the event and expressed their sincere gratitude to ArborOne from the SC FFA Association.

Dylan Way,
State FFA
VP with the
Barnwell FFA
members.



Members of the
Manning FFA
that help with
the event



McLeod Farms Dedicates Corn Maze to Earle Family

Article by Billy Keels, State Director of Agricultural Education

McLeod Farm in McBee, SC opened a corn maze this fall depicting an FFA emblem to pay tribute to the FFA organization, the McBee FFA chapter and the Earle Family.

A ribbon cutting for the maze was held on October 4 where both local and state dignitaries were on hand to kick off the event. During the ceremony, Kemp McLeod, owner of McLeod Farms, announced that the use of the FFA emblem as this year's Corn Maze is to honor the FFA organization and its commitment to excellence in developing both leadership skills and skills for career success in agriculture.

McLeod also announced that a portion of the proceeds from the Corn Maze would go to a scholarship fund for FFA members from McBee. The scholarship would be in honor of the late Mr. E.B. Earle, who taught Agriculture at McBee high school for 39 years. McLeod stated that Mr. Earle was his agriculture teacher and stated that much of his success is due to the lessons taught by Mr. Earle.

In addition, McLeod praised Pat Earle, Mr. E.B. Earle's son and current teacher at McBee High School, for maintaining the standard of excellence in the McBee Agricultural program.

Following the ribbon cutting ceremony, McBee FFA members had an opportunity to navigate the maze, which provides hints throughout if you can correctly answer questions about the FFA. In addition, helicopter rides were available to provide attendees with a bird's eye view.

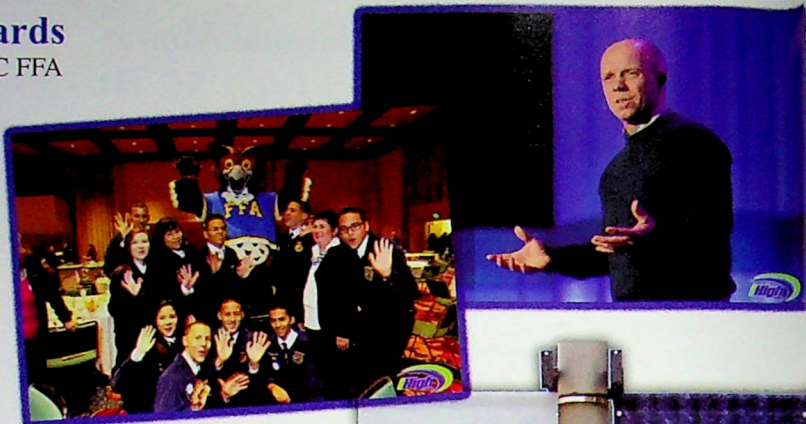
McLeod Farms, home of Mac's Prides peaches is a long time supporter of the FFA both in McBee and statewide. Two of Kemp and Gaye McLeod's children, Rachel and Spencer, have served as State Officers.



Banner Year for Chapter Awards

Article by Keith Cox, Executive Director of SC FFA

One of the most sought after awards is the National Chapter award. This was a good year for the South Carolina FFA Association. Out of the nine gold state applications that were sent to compete at nationals six were rated Three Star and three were rated Two Star. (Three being the highest rating.) This places the nine chapters in the top 8% in the nation. This shows just how hard the chapters are working to plan and carry out a program of activities that benefits the local members, chapters and communities.



South Carolina FFA Recognized for Growth

The South Carolina FFA Association received an award for an increase in membership. Currently the Association is experiencing a 34-year high for our state.



SC State Officer, Hunter Holland with Membership Growth plaque presented at the National FFA Convention

National FFA Convention Says Bye to Indy

Information Provided by National FFA

For seven years hundreds of SC FFA members have joined the thousands of National FFA members in Indianapolis for the National FFA Convention & Expo. Many things have changed since Indy began hosting the convention. Each change has made the visit a little more convenient for the FFA members.

Georgia Street was renamed to "FFA Way", the RCA Dome was removed to build the impressive Lucas Oil Stadium, the Indiana Convention Center has grown in size and this year Consco Fieldhouse was renamed to Bankers Life Fieldhouse.

We have become comfortable with our host city of Indianapolis but just as the Olympics' pass the torch so has Indy pass the Blue and Gold torch. Even though there was not an official passing ceremony, the National FFA Convention & Expo will be pass from Indianapolis to Louisville, Ky., next year. The convention and expo was held in Louisville before coming to Indianapolis in 2006.

Moving back to Louisville next year allows FFA members to experience a different venue and state. It also allows members to experience different atmospheres and meet new people.

We are looking forward to coming back to Louisville next year, and we hope to see a record number of SC FFA members in Kentucky, next fall.





FFA members from across the country and local volunteers packaged more than one million meals for the Indianapolis community and families around the world in the FFA Rally to Fight Hunger. We would like to thank the following chapter that participated with 92 members. They are: Swansea, Dixie, Ridge Spring Monetta, Calhoun Falls, Barnwell, Manning, Keenan, Lakewood and Crestwood.



South Carolina was well represented in the Hall of States exhibit thanks to the Barnwell FFA Chapter who took responsibility for constructing and manning the South Carolina booth.

Pictured are Naiyanna Bookert (left) and Ivi Mitchell (right), members of the Keenan FFA with their Advisor Joan Alexander at the State Booth.



Tom Scott, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences, with four of the SC State Officers. (L to R) Zack MacDougall, Andrew Snipes, Dean Scott, Hunter Holland and Dylan Way.

SC FFA Scores High in Agri Science Fair

Article by Keith Cox, Executive Director of SC FFA



Rita Crowley and Betsy Norris of the Cheraw FFA Chapter. Picture courtesy of National FFA Office

The FFA Agriscience Fair recognizes students who are studying the application of scientific principles and emerging technologies in agricultural enterprises.

Participation begins at the local chapter level and progresses to the state and national levels. Areas of participation closely mirror those of the International Science and Engineering Fair but reflect an agricultural theme.

The SC FFA Association is proud of the following SC members that placed silver or gold at the National Agriscience Fair.

Gold - Rita Crowley & Betsy Norris of the Cheraw FFA

Food Products & Processing Division III Category

Silver - Beth Coates & Sierra Hall of the Cheraw FFA

Animal Systems Division IV Category

Silver - Kristina Schultz of the Cheraw FFA

Plant Systems- Division I Category

Silver - Candace Gibby of the Seneca FFA

Social Systems Division I Category

Silver - Bailee Hawkins and Amber of the Seneca FFA

Gross Animal Systems Division III Category

Silver - Megan Bartell of the Cheraw FFA

Food Products and Processing Division II Category

South Carolina FFA Competes for National Office

Article by Keith Cox, Executive Director of SC FFA



Katie Simpson of the Abbeville Chapter and former 2010-11 State FFA President served as the South Carolina FFA Association's 2012 National Officer candidate. Katie advanced to the second phase of the process, which placed her in the top 24 in the nation. This is the first time that a candidate from South Carolina has advanced to the second phase of the process since the current format was instituted. Making "the cut" is no small task. As was stated by an official from another state "once they make the cut, all of the candidates are good. It then becomes luck of the draw." Congratulations to Katie for proudly representing South Carolina.

SC FFA Excels in National CDE's

Article by Keith Cox, Executive Director of SC FFA

SC FFA had 18 different teams and individuals competing on the National level this year. All teams representing our state association are to be commended for their hard work and dedication. The following chapters are to be commended for receiving the rating of silver at the National CDE Events:

Agronomy

Strom Thurmond FFA

Dairy Handler

Rachel Nance of the York FFA

Environmental & Natural Resource

Pendleton FFA

Horse Evaluation

Woodmont FFA

Nursery Landscape

Lexington FFA

Parliamentary Procedure

Manning FFA

Prepared Public Speaking

Savannah Vickery of the Pendleton FFA



Stevens Receives Honorary American Degree

Article by Keith Cox, Executive Director of SC FFA

Glenn Stevens was awarded the Honorary American Degree at the National Convention. The Honorary American Degree is the highest honor bestowed by the National FFA Organization.

Mr. Stevens has been teaching for 28 years, the last 20 years at Belton Honea – Path High School. He has trained teams for approximately 250 CDE's; seven of the teams won State Titles. His chapter has received several Gold awards for their National Chapter application and won the Governor's Citation three times. He has served the SC FFA association by serving on the FFA Board of Directors for five different terms. He also served as the President of the SC Association of Agriculture Educators. Mr. Steven's has been married to his supportive wife Maureen for 22 years.



SCAAE Stands Out In Region V

Article by Steve Sanderson, Associate State Director of Agricultural Education

The South Carolina Association of Agriculture Educators has a long history in receiving national recognition from the National Association of Agriculture Educators. This year South Carolina will be recognized on the national level in two of the Award Areas.

Mr. Robert Bollier, Agriculture Educator and FFA Advisor at Cheraw High School, was recognized as the NAAE Region V Ideas Unlimited winner.

The Ideas Unlimited contest is designed to give members an opportunity to exchange classroom, SAE, leadership, and other teaching ideas. The idea may be original or borrowed. Each application should specify how the idea was used by the applicant and how the idea could help others in their teaching. The Ideas Unlimited Program is sponsored by Delmar Cengage Learning.

Mr. Bollier took top honors at the NAAE Region V Conference in Charleston, SC when he presented his laboratory workbook entitled "From the Kitchen Cabinet: A Collection of Inexpensive Agriscience Laboratory Experiments".

Pendleton High School was also recognized as the NAAE Region V Outstanding Secondary Agriculture Education Program. A goal of NAAE is to promote outstanding programs in agricultural education and effectively communicate success stories. The Outstanding Secondary School Ag Ed Program Award promulgates that goal. This program and award is partially sponsored by Monsanto as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

The Agriculture Education Instructors at Pendleton High School are Mr. Josh Murdock and Mr. Blake Berry. Mr. Murdock and Mr. Berry strive to build the program at Pendleton through the three circle model of Instruction, FFA, and SAE. The instructors work very hard to develop their students full potential in leadership, personal growth, and career success.

Both of these programs will represent South Carolina and NAAE Region V at the NAAE Conference in Atlanta.



Pendleton Agricultural Program was selected as the Region V Outstanding Program. Pictured are Jay Jackman, Executive Director of NAAE and Josh Murdock and Blake Berry, Agricultural Teachers at Pendleton High School (photo provided by John W. Parris)



Robert Bollier, Agriculture Educator at Cheraw High School, was selected as the Region V Ideas Unlimited Winner. Pictured are Bert Beasley, SCAAE President and Daryl Behel, NAAE Region V Vice-President.

New Courses Address Emerging Technology in Agriculture

Article by Billy Keels, South Carolina Director of Agricultural Education

The agriculture industry has, and always will be vital to the future. It is commonly recognized that the agriculture industry is responsible for producing food, fiber and shelter for mankind, the three vital elements to survival.

However, today's agriculture goes much deeper than that. Scientific advancements are opening new doors for the use of bio products. As a result, the agriculturalists of tomorrow will not only face the responsibility of feeding the world but also providing everything from fuel to medication.

In some respects the innovative use of agricultural products creates a dilemma. Can farmers continue to produce enough corn to meet the planet's food demands while also using that same crop to produce bio fuels? This could result in higher prices received by the producer but also could result in higher food cost for the consumer.

But agriculture being the great industry that it is has developed solutions. The solutions lie in biosystems engineering. That is, to break down the product being produced to a molecular level. By doing so, plants and other biomaterials, which once were considered useless, now become a valuable commodity.

Can you imagine, for example, eating algae? Well you may very well be doing just that. For years food manufacturers have been using "fish oil" in food products. This fish oil contains the essential fatty acid DHA. However, scientists have discovered that the DHA is actually produced by the fish through the algae that they ingest. They then discovered that they could produce DHA directly from the algae. Therefore algae farms have begun to sprout up across the country. And it gets better – not only can the oil produced by the algae be used for the production of the food additive but it also can be used to make fuel, plastics and even pharmaceuticals. And an interesting fact on algae processing centers.... Guess what they smell like. You guessed it – fish. You see what makes fish smell "fishy" is actually the algae.

But it doesn't stop there. By examining plants on the molecular level, scientist have discovered that plants such as switch grass can produce biofuels just as effectively as corn. There is even a manufacture in South Carolina that takes wood products and produces biofuels.

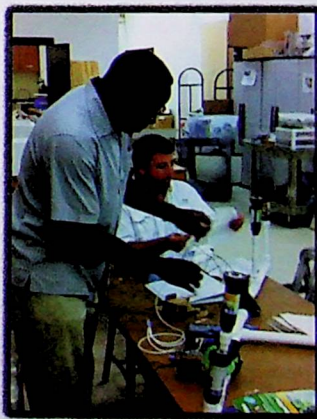
Studying agriculture on the molecular level has also led to some other fascinating findings. For example, what if you could grow cotton in different colors than white. Believe it or not, you can. Clemson has

experimented with various colors of cotton on its research facilities. A practice that could reduce the need for dyes thus both ensuring clothes will not fade while also protecting the environment.

These and other fascinating discoveries are being developed today by Agricultural Scientists that have the curiosity and the determination to help the agriculture industry meet the demands of the future. It therefore becomes the responsibility of Agricultural Education to ensure that such scientists are developed. For this reason, a new career pathway was introduced in South Carolina in the fall of 2012. The Biosystems Engineering Technology pathway is now available for schools to implement. The pathway offers courses, which examine biomaterial on the molecular level to see how they can be used to meet the current and future demands on the agricultural industry. Students enrolled will begin the fascinating journey of evaluating the world's needs and exploring opportunities to meet those needs.

The agriculture industry has been resilient in its meeting the challenges that face our nation and the world. For years, the industry has fed, clothed and provided shelter for society. Today the demands go even deeper. These are challenges that can be met as long as young people today take up the calling to continue to lead the agriculture industry.

For more information on the Biosystems Engineering pathway visit the SC Agricultural Education website at www.SCAgEd.org and see what the future has in store for the Agricultural Industry.



Photos: Agriculture Teachers undergo training at Clemson University to prepare to teach Bio Systems Technology courses.



Wando FFA Seeks GAP Certification

Contributed by Katie Donohoe, Advisor
Wando FFA Chapter

The Wando FFA Chapter will become "Good Agricultural Practices" (GAP) certified by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture for their raised garden beds. Once they receive GAP certification, the raised beds will be utilized to produce organically grown vegetables for the school cafeteria.



Fall InFort Mill

Contributed by Kristen Reinhardt,
Advisor Fort Mill FFA

Fort Mill High School FFA participated in the Fort Mill Fall Festival, held in downtown Fort Mill. On October 31st, FFA members handed out candy to over 2,000 children. The event invites local businesses and organizations to set up a booth and give candy out to children, who come to participate in the costume contest and pie eating contests! It is a great opportunity to start recruiting younger children into the FFA and serving the community with a safe environment for their children to trick-or-treat in. The event lasted from 4:30 to 7:30 pm.

Pictured left to right: Ashleigh Burgess, Erin Stotts, Missy McConnell, Liza Walker, Stewart Ruddy, Blake Whitesides, Mary Catherine Pankus, Brittany Franklin, Lindsey Hall, Jaquel McCarthy, Anna DeAngelis, Kayla Bruton, Zech Smith.



FFA Day at Turner Field

Contributed by Katie Arms,
Advisor Kershaw ATEC FFA

The ATEC Kershaw County FFA attended the FFA Day at Turner Field. The Georgia FFA organization invited South Carolina and Alabama chapters to attend this event. The field manager for Turner Field came and spoke to the FFA members about his job and educational requirements. Once this was over we attended the Braves game versus Washington Nationals. After the game there was a O.A.R. concert. In the picture on the left is Miss Arms, Allison Odom, and Colton Orr.



Lake Clean-Up

Contributed by Nancy McCannon, Advisor Calhoun Falls FFA

On Sept. 27, Calhoun Falls FFA Chapter participated in the Lake Russell Clean-Up, which was part of the National Public Lands Clean up Day. This was a joint project between the FFA and Young Farmers. There were 20 members participating. Members walked around the shoreline and picked up trash from the Latimer boat ramp to the Blue Hole Recreational Area. They picked over 57 bags of trash, which was equivalent to 3 pick-up truck loads.

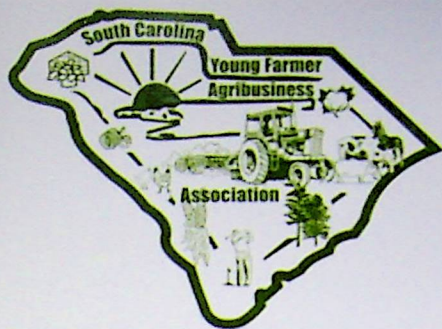


SC FFA Member Wins at the US Team Roping Championships

Contributed by Mindy Sandifer, Advisor, Barnwell FFA Chapter



Barnwell County Career Center FFA member and chapter officer, Coltin Nobles, recently competed in the U. S. Team Roping Championships held in Oklahoma, October 24th – 27th. Coltin heeled while his father, Jade Nobles, headed 4 steers for a total time of 38.97 seconds. The time earned them a 4th place finish out of 700 teams in the #9 shootout, which awarded a total of \$439,000.00 across the board. The Noble's father and son team took home \$37,000 and belt buckles for their hard work. Coltin also competed with another partner, Mr. Jody Heyward, during the event. The Heyward/ Nobles team finished 2nd in the #10 preliminary round which hosted 660 teams. They earned \$15,900 and buckles for their combined time of 34.16 seconds on 4 steers. Coltin is a junior this year at Barnwell High School and is in his second year of the agricultural program at the Barnwell County Career Center. He and his family have played a vital role in the success of the SC High School Rodeo Event hosted by the Barnwell CCC FFA chapter over the past 5 years. The event provides funding for scholarships, a chosen charity, and opportunities for FFA members to participate in state and national FFA leadership events annually.



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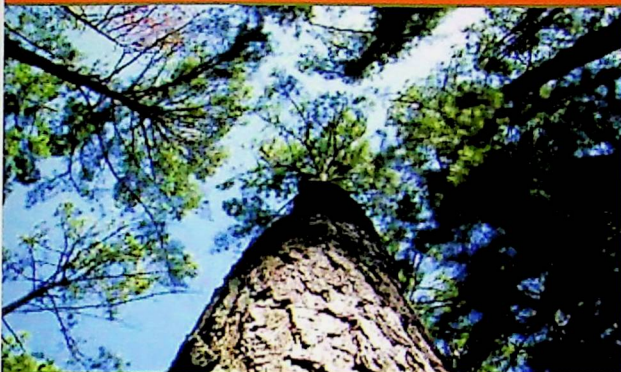
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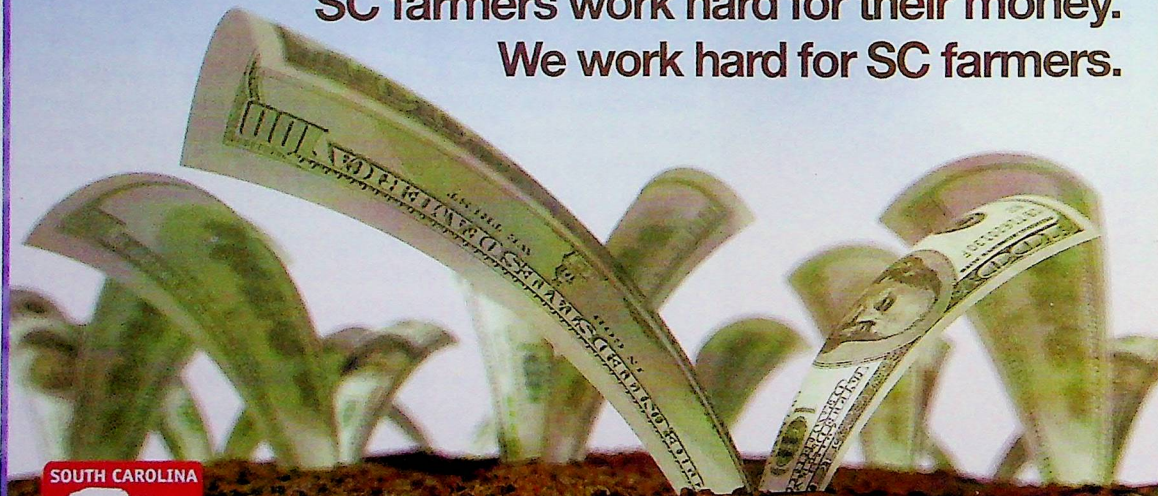
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